

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 654

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to pay tribute to the rich historical legacy of the Kelley family on the occasion of its reunion, which is being held in May of 2015; and

WHEREAS, The Kelley family traces its roots to the union of William Kelley, a plantation overseer and Confederate veteran, and Dinah Rush, a freed slave; after the Civil War, the couple settled in Texas, where they established a farm adjacent to Sam Houston's historic Raven Hills plantation; and

WHEREAS, Despite facing condemnation and disapproval over their mixed-race partnership, William and Dinah remained together, and they were blessed with 10 children; and

WHEREAS, Their descendants are exemplary citizens who have played an important role in the lives of their communities, schools, and businesses; family members have served in many notable capacities, including those of surgeon, soldier, Cabinet member, and Super Bowl-winning athlete; and

WHEREAS, The Kelley family reunion provides an opportunity for family members to celebrate their pride in their shared heritage and to strengthen their commitment to family unity and loyalty; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby commend the members of the Kelley family, recognize the historic impact their family has had on this state and nation, and extend to them best wishes for a memorable and joyous family reunion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the family as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Ellis

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 29, 2015.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate